

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CU-02 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /078 W

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R 231449Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2423

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PDEV ET

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGN KICKS-OFF

REF: (A) ADDIS 15121; (B) USINFO 15128

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGN INCLUDING CEREMONY MARKING COMMENCEMENT OF CAMPAIGN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, REPORTED BY REFTELS. OPENING CEREMONIES INCLUDED PARADE BY STUDENT PARTICIPANTS (BOYS AND GIRLS) WHO MARCHED FROM "JAN MEDA" TO MASKEL SQUARE, A DISTANCE OF SOME THREE KILOMETERS PAST PARLIAMENT AND TWO NATIONAL PALACES. NATIONAL HOLIDAY HAD BEEN DECLARED TO MARK COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES AND CONSEQUENTLY SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPEECHES AT "JAN MEDA" RACE COURSE AND LARGE DENSE CROWD LINED THE PARADE ROUTE TO WITNESS SPECTACLE. SPECTATORS' REACTION WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE BUT CONTROLLED AND STUDENT CAMPAIGNERS WERE MET WITH SPORADIC CHEERS AND APPLAUSE ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE AND IN "JAN MEDA." WHILE EMBOFF HAD BEEN WARNED TO EXPECT MAMY
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INDEPENDENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POSSIBLY EVEN VIOLENT ONES,

THEY FAILED TO MATERIALIZE EXCEPT FOR ONE POST-PARADE GROUP OF STUDENTS WHICH MARCHED PAST USIS BUILDING SHOUTING "YANKEE, GO HOME."

2. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AT "JAN MEDA" CEREMONY WERE IMPRESSED BY THE STUDENTS' GENERAL APPEARANCE AND BY THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY REFLECTED IN THE EVENT. STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH UNIFORMS (KHAKI COVERALLS WITH CAMPAIGN SLOGAN EMBLEM, CAP AND BOOTS); LODGING AND MEAL FACILITIES ARE ALLEGEDLY PREPARED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS; AND THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE ASSIGNMENTS AND DEPART DURING WEEK COMMENCING 22 DECEMBER.

3. EMBASSY POUCHING BOOKLET PROVIDING MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ORGANIZATION AND GOALS OF CAMPAIGN GIVEN TO OFFICIALS AT CEREMONY.

COMMENT: THE RESULTS OF EPMG'S FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT APPEARS TO HAVE IMPROVED OBSERVERS' VIEWS OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S COMPETENCE AND THIS HAS PROBABLY ENHANCED THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS' ASSESSMENT OF "DIRG'S" SURVIVABILITY.

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